

Message Text

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SUBJECT: PUBLIC HEALTH MINISTER RELEASES STATEMENT ON MALNUTRITION

1. WORLD HEALTH DAY, APRIL 7, WAS MARKED IN NIGER WITH STATEMENT BY MINISTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH, DR. AMADOU MOSSI, DESCRIBING INTER ALIA MALNUTRITION AMONG MOST VULNERABLE SECTORS OF POPULATION - INFANTS AND CHILDREN FROM AGES 6 MOS TO 9 YRS AS WELL AS PREGNANT WOMEN. MINISTER STATED THAT A 1973 MINISTRY OF HEALTH STUDY CONCLUDED THAT AMONG THIS POPULATION WHICH INCLUDES 708,000 INFANTS AND CHILDREN FROM AGES 6 MOS TO 4 YRS AND 611,000 CHILDREN FROM AGES 5 TO 9 YRS, THE PERCENTAGE OF MALNUTRITION IS ALARMING. ACCORDING TO STUDY 16 TO 21 PERCENT OF CHILDREN AGED 6 MOS TO 1 YR SUFFERED FROM MALNUTRITION. DR. MOSSI ESTIMATED THAT AMONG CHILDREN FROM AGES 1 TO 3 YRS, WHEN THEY ARE NO LONGER NURSED, THE PERCENTAGE OF MALNUTRITION WAS EVEN GREATER.

2. THE MINISTER'S DECLARATION DRAWS ATTENTION TO FATE OF MALNOURISHED INFANTS AND CHILDREN WHOSE INABILITY RESIST USUAL CHILDHOOD DISEASES HAVE MADE THEM DROUGHT'S MOST FREQUENT VICTIMS.BUCHE

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